



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE TIM BROWN

Dear Neighbor:

The 2010 legislative session was very challenging. With little money and working towards the goal of no new spending, legislators were left with some very tough and difficult decisions.

Throughout session, I voted on bills with four goals in mind: create and protect Hoosiers' jobs, not create new tax increases, live within our means and allow Hoosiers to vote for permanent property tax caps on the November ballot.

I am pleased to say I was able to meet those goals while providing the best services possible for Hoosiers. Several weeks of hard work, discussions and debates took place to protect Indiana.

I'll be in the Statehouse during the interim for committee meetings and summer study meetings. I will continue to look at state issues and how I can help improve the quality of life in our communities and our state.

It's my honor to serve District 41 in our state Capitol and I will continue to do my best to improve the Hoosier quality of life.

Sincerely,

Tim N. Brown MD
Rep. Tim Brown



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2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TIM BROWN

TIM BROWN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 41

CREATING HOOSIER JOBS



I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home's assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen's property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."



BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESS

I voted to delay a \$350 million tax increase on

nearly 80,000 Hoosier employers, more than 72,000 of which were small businesses with less than 50 employees. This tax increase was passed last year without my support. I also voted to remove the employee threshold on the EDGE tax credit for job retention. Previously the threshold required an employer to have at least 35 employees in order to be eligible for the tax credit. Now small businesses with at least 10 employees will also be eligible for this incentive.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers

nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.



My Web site is www.in.gov/h41